Amendment to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A device for processing the surface of an object~~s~~ comprising~~:~~ ~~a predetermined number of~~ at least one processing station~~s~~ ~~(B_1-B_8)~~ ~~performing processing processes and~~ ~~:~~

a conveying unit ~~performing processing movements~~, by ~~means of~~ which said objects are transported into ~~predetermined~~ desired positions at said processing stations ~~(B_1-B_8),~~ ~~;~~ ~~characterized by~~

a central controller ~~(7)~~, by ~~means of~~ which the functions ~~processing movements~~ of said conveying unit and ~~the processing processes~~ of said processing station~~s~~ are synchronized by ~~presetting~~ a clock pulse ~~being~~ correlated with ~~the processing movement~~ transport of ~~the~~ said object ~~(3)~~ ~~to be processed~~ and wherein said ~~controlling the respective processing process via said~~ central controller ~~(7)~~ controls ~~for~~ each processing station ~~(B_1-B_8)~~.

2. (Original) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein ~~a predetermined number of~~ said processing station~~s~~ ~~(B_1-B_8)~~ ~~is constituted by one~~ further comprises a printing unit ~~each~~.

3. (Original) The device according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of said printing units further comprises an inkjet printing head ~~(6)~~.

4. (Original) The device according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ ~~2 or~~ 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of said printing units further comprises a printing roller ~~(5)~~.

5. (Original) The device according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s 1 to 4~~ 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of said processing stations ~~(B_1-B_8)~~ ~~is constituted by~~ further comprises an inspection unit.

6. (Original) The device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that rotationally symmetrical objects (3) are processed therewith.~~ wherein said objects are symmetrical about a rotational axis.

7. (Original) The device according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ~~rotationally symmetrical~~ objects ~~(3)~~ ~~comprise~~ are selected from the group consisting of beverage cans, beverage bottles or cups.

8. (Original) The device according to ~~any one of claims 6 or 7~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said conveying unit comprises a rotary cycle apparatus ~~(2)~~, on which said ~~rotationally symmetrical~~ objects ~~(3)~~ are arranged in the circumferential direction and may each be set into rotation by means of a conveyor drive means.

9. (Original) The device according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ~~rotationally symmetrical~~ objects ~~(3)~~ are each rotationally journalled with respect to their axis of rotation.

10. (Original) The device according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 9~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein starting signals are generated in the central controller ~~(7)~~, by ~~means of~~ which ~~the processing processes of the~~ individual processing stations may be started ~~individually~~ independently.

11. (Original) The device according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 10~~, ~~characterized in that,~~ wherein by predetermining the duration of the transmission of said clock pulse to a processing station ~~(B_1-B_8)~~, the duration of the ~~processing process for this~~ function of said processing station ~~(B_1-B_8)~~ may be predefined by the central controller ~~(7)~~.

12. (Original) The device according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s 8 to~~ 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one incremental encoder ~~(13)~~ ~~each~~ is provided for detecting the rotary position of said objects ~~(3)~~.

13. (Original) The device according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said conveyer drive means ~~for generating~~ generate rotation in dependence upon the signals of said incremental encoder ~~(13)~~ are position controlled.

14. (Original) The device according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s 1 to~~ 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a lead frequency defining the clock pulse may be preset by said central controller ~~(7)~~.

15. (Original) The device according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said lead frequency may be adjusted ~~in said controller (7)~~.

16. (Original) The device according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 14 ~~or 15~~, characterized in that said lead frequency is transmitted to a computing unit ~~(9)~~ for synchronizing the rotation of said objects ~~(3)~~ generated by ~~means of~~ said conveyer drive means ~~and~~ to said processing stations ~~(B_4-B_8) for controlling the processing processes~~.

17. (Original) The device according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said computing unit ~~(9)~~ is stationary ~~arranged~~.

18. (Original) The device according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said computing unit ~~(9)~~ is arranged on said rotary cycle apparatus ~~(2)~~.

19. (Original) The device according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 16 ~~to 18~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said lead frequency and the signals of said incremental encoders ~~(13)~~ constitute input quantities for the position control of the respective conveyer drive means.

20. (Original) The device according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 16 ~~to 19~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said lead frequency may be adapted to the operating frequencies of said processing stations ~~(B_4-B_8)~~.

21. (Original) The device according to claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said lead frequency is ~~adapted to the output frequency constituting~~ an operating frequency of inkjet droplets of an inkjet printing head ~~(6)~~.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) A device for processing the surface of an object comprising;

at least one processing station;

a conveying unit, by which said object is transported into desired positions at said processing station;

a central controller, by which the functions of said conveying unit and said processing stations are synchronized by presetting a clock pulse being correlated with the transport of said object, and wherein said central controller controls for each processing station; and,

wherein said clock pulse is derived from the cyclically and currently detected position values and detection times of the position values derived from the transport of the object being processed.

30. (New) The device according to claim 29, wherein the position values and the detection times of the position values of said objects are detected by an incremental encoder and stored as data sets in an evaluation unit.

31. (New) The device according to claim 30, wherein said clock pulse for a processing station comprises a series of counting pulses derived from the data sets stored in said evaluation unit and follow the increments of the respective incremental encoder.

32. (New) The device according to claim 31, wherein said counting pulses are generated in a frequency generator controlling a processing station.

33. (New) The device according to claim 32, wherein the output signals generated by said frequency generator are re-read into said central controller.

34. (New) The device according to claim 33, wherein control loops for generating said counting pulses are provided in said central controller, and wherein said re-read output signals of said frequency generators constitute instantaneous values of said control loops.

35. (New) The device according to claim 31, wherein the intervals of the individual counting pulses are shorter than the cycle time of said central controller.